

IN THE DRAWINGS

Please replace the drawing on file with the attached replacement sheet.

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending in this application with claim 1 being amended by this response to include features of claims 2-4 and claim 9 has been added by this response. Claims 2-4 are cancelled by this response. Thus, applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added by these amendments.

Objection to the Drawings

The drawings are objected to as not including all reference signs mentioned in the description. Figure 1 has been amended to include reference number "18" in accordance with the comments in the Office Action. A replacement sheet including amended Figure 1 is included with this response. Please replace the original Figure 1 with the attached amended Figure 1. As reference number "18" was mentioned in the original specification it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment. In view of the attached replacement sheet it is respectfully submitted that this objection is satisfied and should be withdrawn.

Objection to the Abstract

The Abstract is objected to as not being in the proper language and format. The abstract has been amended for clarity in accordance with the comments in the Office Action to delete the phrase "means". In view of the amendments to the Abstract, it is respectfully submitted that this objection is satisfied and should be withdrawn.

Objection to Claim 3

Claim 3 is objected to for certain informalities. Claim 3 is cancelled by this response and its features added to claim 1. The comments in the Office Action have been considered when adding the features of claim 3 to claim 1. IN view of this amendments made to the claims, it is respectfully submitted that this objection is satisfied and should be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. 112 second paragraph

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The claims have been amended in accordance with the comments in the Office Action to provide antecedent basis for all terms.

In view of the amendments to the claims, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection has been satisfied and should be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 1-3 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 1-3 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Barfrede. (U.S. Patent No. 5,050,710 hereinafter "Barfrede").

Claim 4 has been indicated as allowable. The features of claims 2-4 have been added to claim 1. Thus claim 1 is now allowable. Claims 2-4 have been cancelled.

In view of the amendment to claim 1, and the cancellation of claims 2-4, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection is satisfied and should be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 1-3 and 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 1-3 and 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Scharfenberg (DE198 57 962 A1 hereinafter "Scharfenberg").

Claim 4 has been indicated as allowable. The features of claims 2-3 have been added to claim 1. Thus claim 1 is now allowable. Claims 2-3 have been cancelled. As claims 5-7 are dependant on claim 1, these claims are also allowable.

In view of the amendment to claim 1 and above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that Scharfenberg does not anticipate the present claimed invention. Thus, it is further respectfully submitted that this rejection is satisfied and should be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Scharfenberg (DE 198 57 962 A1) in view of Damm (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/045510).

Claim 4 has been indicated as allowable. The features of claims 2-4 have been added to claim 1. Thus claim 1 is now allowable. Claims 2-4 have been cancelled. As claim 8 is dependant on claim 1, this claim is also allowable.

In view of the amendment to claim 1 and above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that Scharfenberg, either alone or in combination with Damm does not anticipate the present claimed invention. Thus, it is further respectfully submitted that this rejection is satisfied and should be withdrawn.

New claim 9 is added by this response to claim features of the present invention. New claim 9 includes the features of original claim 4 which was indicated as allowable. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that new claim 9 is also allowable.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant respectfully submits an attached Information Disclosure Statement including legible copies of each foreign reference cited in the International Search Report as requested in the Office Action. Also included with the IDS is an English language translation of the abstract of D 198 57 962 to show the relevance of this reference are also enclosed. A copy of Patent No. 6,543,222 is included to show the relevance of European Paten No. EP1072814. A copy of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/045510 is included to show the relevance of EP1161740.

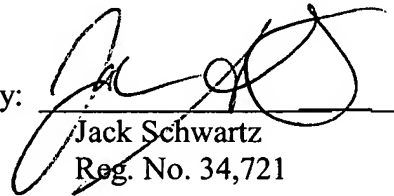
In view of the attached IDS and PTO Form 1449, applicant hereby requests that the cited references be considered.

Having fully addressed the Examiner's rejections, it is believed that, in view of the preceding amendments and remarks, this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly then, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's attorney at the phone number below, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

No additional fee is believed due. However, if a fee is due, please charge the additional fee to Deposit Account 50-2828.

Respectfully submitted,
Raimund Grimm

By:



Jack Schwartz
Reg. No. 34,721

Jack Schwartz & Associates, PLLC
1350 Broadway, Suite 1510
New York, New York 10018
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